Committee for Medicaid Reform

Briefing on Services to Persons with Disabilities February 23, 2005



Table of Contents

- 1. Overview of Persons with Disabilities
- 2. Eligibility
- 3. Medicaid Utilization and Trends
- 4. Long-Term Care Card Services
- Institutional Care
- 6. Home and Community-Based Waivers



Table of Contents

- 7. Family Care
- 8. Partnership
- 9. SSI Managed Care
- 10. Key Issues
- 11. Strategies
- 12. Future Briefings



Overview of Persons with Disabilities



Definitions

Physical Disability

- People with physical disabilities have limitations in their ability to perform major life activities due to injury, disease or birth defects.
- These disabilities can be related to a person's physical or sensory functions.
- Some conditions that cause physical disabilities are spinal cord injury/disease, multiple sclerosis, blindness, hearing loss and arthritis.
- 743,000 Wisconsin residents self-reported a physical disability in the 2000 census.



Definitions

Developmental Disability

- Developmental disabilities are lifelong mental and physical conditions occurring prior to age 22
- They often, but not always, include mental retardation.
- Developmental disabilities result in substantial functional limitation in activities of daily living, such as independent living, employment and social activity.
- 1.8% of the general population has a developmental disability requiring one or more publicly funded support services.

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Definitions

Mental Illness

- Mental illness is a mental disease to such extent that the person requires care and treatment for his/her own welfare or the welfare of others.
- Mental illnesses ranges in severity and duration from short term to long term and severe.
- Some diagnoses of people with mental illness are schizophrenia, depression and bipolar disorder.
- 882,877 Wisconsin adults and 226,838 children are affected by mental disorders according to the 2000 census.

